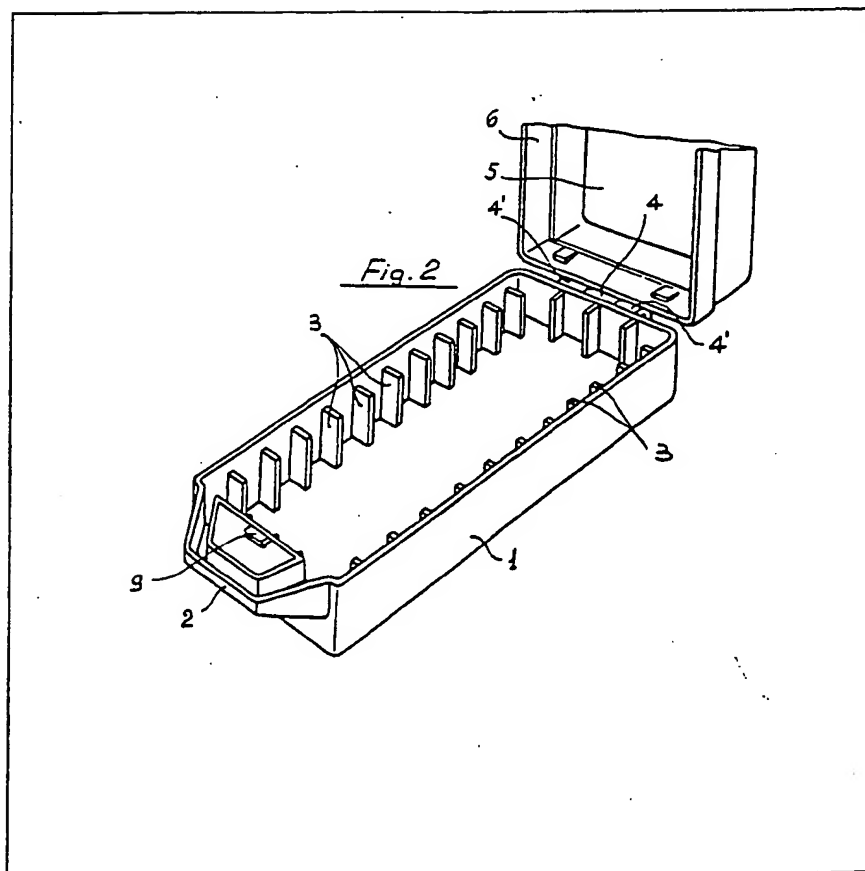


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(54) Magnetic-tape cartridge holding box

(57) A magnetic-tape cartridge holding box comprises two plastics material bodies (1), (5) hinged together, each body being provided with a hollow handle-defining element (2), and one of the said bodies having spaced fins (3) defining seats for holding magnetic-tape cartridges.



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Fig. 1 is an isometric view of a multi-pin connector assembly. It consists of a main housing (1) with a front flange (2) and a top cover (5). A locking mechanism (6) is located on the front flange, featuring a latch (7) and a release button (8). A small rectangular component (9) is mounted on the front flange. Fig. 2 is an isometric view of the same assembly from a different perspective, showing the internal structure. The main housing (1) is shown with a series of pins (3) protruding from its front edge. The top cover (5) is shown detached, revealing the internal components, including a locking mechanism (6) and a latch (7). The pins (3) are shown in a row, and the housing (1) is shown with a front flange (2) and a locking mechanism (6).

SPECIFICATION

Magnetic-tape cartridge holding box

5 The present invention relates to a plastics material box or small suit-case, particularly effective to contain magnetic-tape cartridges.

As it is known, are nowadays broadly used the tape cartridges or magnetic-tape play-back devices, which cartridges contain a magnetic tape thereonto have been recorded songs or music pieces.

As these play-back devices are mounted onto, automotive vehicles, the driver must have at his disposal a number of tape cartridges, orderly located in a very reduced space and in such a position as to be easily taken up even during the running of the vehicle.

A box or suit-case according to the present invention comprises two rectangular shape plastics material molded pieces, said pieces being rotatably coupled along one of the small faces thereof, said box being provided, in the inside thereof, with cartridge holding transversal seats.

More specifically, the cartridge holding box according to the present invention is formed by a first elongated-rectangular-plan box-shaped body, provided, along the inner surface of each of the two longer side walls, with a plurality of opposed perimetral vertical fins defining a plurality of transversely oriented seats effective to hold a corresponding number of tape cartridges.

Onto one of the two small sides of said box-shaped body is formed, directly in the molding step, a box-shaped structure, said structure being upwardly hollowed and projecting outwardly with respect to said side.

Onto the opposed side is formed a small eyelet element, effective to provide a coupling, through a pin, with a second box-shaped body, equal to the first and provided, at related positions, with a coupling eyelet element pair.

Said second box-shaped body is provided, onto the free edge thereof, with a perimetrical band superimposing onto the free edge of said first box-shaped body.

Said second box-shaped body is moreover provided, onto the side opposing to the coupling side, with a box-shaped structure, upwardly opened and outwardly projecting, said structure being completely similar to the corresponding one of said first box-shaped body.

Said box-shaped structures form the handle, as the two box-shaped bodies are approached to one another.

The locking of the two box-shaped bodies is carried out, preferably, by means of a perforated flexible small tab, formed onto the edge of the second box-shaped body and engaging with a projecting tooth formed at a corresponding position onto the outer surface of the first box-shaped body.

The functional and constructional characteristics of the tape cartridge holding box, or small suit-case, according to the present invention, will become more apparent from the following description in which reference is made to the figures of the

accompanying drawing illustrating a preferred, exemplary and not limitative embodiment of the present invention, and where:-

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of the instant tape cartridge holding box in the closed condition thereof; and

Figure 2 is a partial schematic view of the box illustrated in *Figure 1*, in the opened condition thereof.

Referring to the drawing figures, the tape cartridge holding box, or suit-case, according to the present invention, comprises a first box-shaped body (1), of elongated rectangular plan, provided, at one of the small sides thereof, with a projecting structure (2), directly formed during the body (1) molding step.

Said projecting structure (2) is also assimilable to a substantially straight box-shaped element which, at the ends thereof, is coupled to the edge of the side therewith it is rigid, in such a way as to form the lower portion of a handle.

Onto the inner surface of each main wall of said box-shaped body (1) are formed, directly in the molding step, a number of vertical fins (3), spaced from one another and opposingly directed, said fins delimitating a plurality of transversal seats effective to house a corresponding number of magnetic-tape cartridges.

Onto the side opposed to that provided with the projecting structure (2), the box-shaped body (1) is provided with projecting eyelet elements (4) allowing for a coupling with a second box-shaped body (5) also provided, at the corresponding small side, with eyelet elements (4'). A pin (not shown in the figure) passing through the two eyelet elements (4) and (4') provides this coupling.

The second box-shaped body (5) has a shape equal to that of the first box-shaped body (1) and it is provided, onto the edge thereof, with a perimetrical band (6) effective to encompass the edge of the first box-shaped body (1), as said box-shaped bodies are approached to one another.

Furthermore the second box-shaped body (5) is provided, onto the small side opposed to that having the eyelet element (4'), with a projecting structure (7), completely similar to the projecting structure (2), which structure (7) is also obtained directly in the molding step and is such as to provide, when it is approached to the structure (2) a rigid type of handle.

The locking of the two box-shaped bodies (1) and (5) is preferably obtained by means of a tab (8) formed onto the edge of one of the two box-shaped bodies and provided with a central slot engaging with a tooth (9) formed onto the outer surface of the other box-shaped body.

From the above description and the examination of the several figures of the accompanying drawing, the great functionality and practicality of use characterizing the tape cartridge holding box or suit-case according to the present invention are self evident.

Modifications, variations and changes may be brought about in the exemplary embodiment illustrated in the figures without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A magnetic-tape cartridge holding box or
suit-case comprising two plastics material box-
5 shaped bodies rotatably coupled to one another
along a side thereof, characterized in that said box-
shaped bodies have an elongated rectangular plan,
each said body being provided, at the small side
thereof opposed to the coupling side, with a linear
10 hollow box-shaped element, outwardly projecting,
connected to or merged with the edge of said side
and obtained during the molding step of said body,
and in that one of the said box-shaped bodies is
provided, onto the inner surface of each main side,
15 with a plurality of spaced opposingly directed verti-
cal fins defining a plurality of transversal seats
effective to hold magnetic-tape cartridges.
2. A box according to Claim 1, characterized in
that the edge of one of the two box-shaped bodies
20 is provided with a perimetrical band encompassing
the edge of the other box-shaped body, as said
box-shaped bodies are in an approached condition.
3. A box according to Claims 1 or 2, character-
ized in that one of said two box-shaped bodies is
25 provided, onto the edge of the lower side opposed
to the coupling side, with a small tab, provided with
a central slot, engaging with a tooth formed onto
the outer surface of the other box-shaped body.
4. A box substantially as described herein with
30 reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying
drawing.
5. A box as claimed in Claim 1, substantially as
hereinbefore described.